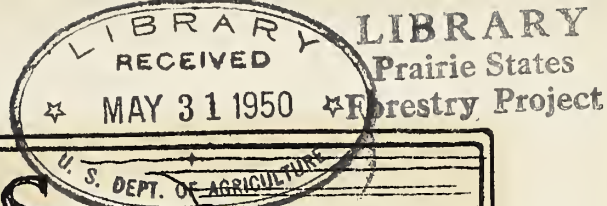


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May - 1938

OLD CYRUS SIMMONS' TEN COMMANDMENTS

Old Cyrus Simmons built a sizeable town before he stopped building wagons. He planned a great many stylish rigs in his day and some rules - the rules hadn't much style to 'em, but they were as solid as his wheels - they didn't wobble. Whenever a candidate for future partnership stopped at the cashier's window for his first week's pay envelope, in addition to his wages he found a little red card of rules. Cyrus didn't copyright the rules, so you'll get a chance to profit by them, too.

1. Don't lie - it wastes my time and yours. I'm sure to catch you in the end and that's the wrong end.
2. Watch your work, not the clock. A long day's work makes a long day short and a day's short work makes my face long.
3. Give me more than I expect and I'll pay you more than you expect. I can afford to increase your pay if you increase my profits.
4. You owe so much to yourself that you can't afford to owe anybody else. Keep out of debt or keep out of my shops.
5. Dishonesty is never an accident. Good men, like good women, can't see temptation when they meet it.
6. Mind your own business and in time you'll have a business of your own to mind.
7. Don't do anything here which hurts your self-respect. The employee who is willing to steal for me is capable of stealing from me.
8. It's none of my business what you do at night, but if dissipation affects what you do next day and you do half as much as I demand, you'll last half as long as you hoped.
9. Don't tell me what I'd like to hear, but what I ought to hear. I don't want a valet to my vanity, but I need one for my dollars.
10. Don't kick if I kick - if you're worth while correcting, you're worth while keeping. I don't waste time cutting specks out of rotten apples.

- One of Herbert Kaufman's justly famous editorials.

PRAIRIE DOGS IN KANSAS

Believe it or not, there are over 20,000 acres of prairie dog infested land in four counties of the Kansas tree-planting area. The majority of this land lies along the Oklahoma border and in the "gyp hills" range land of Barber, Comanche, Clark and Kiowa Counties.

Landowners and County Agents in the area have been seeking aid from the Forest Service for two years, but since those "dogs" were not directly damaging tree strip plantings, little could be offered in the way of direct aid. However, an appeal to the Biological Survey brought Mr. Carlyle Carr, Assistant District Agent, hot-footing it up here from Oklahoma City as soon as he could arrange it. With Mr. Carr's "promoting", work was started in the above four counties in March of this year. Harper and Sumner Counties were delayed until this fall, when they will join the eradication program. Mr. George B. Lay, District Agent from Raleigh, North Carolina, has been temporarily transferred to take charge of the work during April, May and June.

Although most of this work is not on land allowable for tree planting, it is in counties where the Forest Service is cooperating with the Farm Bureau in tree-planting work, and this Project is interested in doing what it can to help in promoting closer cooperation and good will in these counties. The counties purchase the prairie dog bait from the Biological Survey Supply Depot at Pocatello, Idaho. With the help of the County Agents and Township Trustees, the landowners are pre-baiting and poisoning their own "dog" towns. The Biological Survey is furnishing supervision.

During the month of March 15,750 acres were pre-baited and poisoned once. 13,500 pounds of poisoned oats and 6,150 pounds of clean pre-bait oats were used.

For the past 20 years landowners have carried on feeble resistance against the pests and have been barely able to keep them from spreading. This campaign is a fight to the finish with the "last dog" as the goal. Several towns have already been cleaned out 100% with the first "doctoring." With continued good cooperation we hope these counties will see their "last dog" within two years.

- Frank Sampson, (U.S.B.S.) Kans.

ONE SHINGLE MAY MAKE A TREE -- ONE TREE MAY MAKE A MILLION SHINGLES, EH WHAT?

A recent inspection of cedar planting this year showed that trees protected by shingles showed a marked improvement over those that were unprotected, some having as much as one-half inch of growth within two weeks after planting. These shingles are placed approximately three inches from the trunk of the tree on the southwest side, at an angle of 65 to 70 degrees. After reviewing the effects of this protection, letters were sent out to all cooperators and instructions given to cultivation contact men to encourage all farmers having cedars in their strips to give this added protection.

- Ralph V. Johnston, Kans.

PUT RUBBER TIRES ON THEM

If any of the nurserymen experience difficulty with the dirt balling up on the wheels of their 4-row sled type seeders, a simple remedy is to put rubber bands on them. Just cut strips 4" x 34" from old inner tubes, vulcanize lap-joint of the ends and stretch to slip over the wheels. Total cost 10¢ a wheel for the vulcanizing.

- Carl A. Taylor, Nebr.

IT'S SWELL IF YOU CAN DO IT

Much has been said in the past of the value of mimeographed circular letters to the public, their effectiveness, etc. It has been found in this district that response to this type of material has been very meager.

Personal letters in regard to different phases of the work, written on regular Forest Service stationery, have brought much better results. The cost of such letters would seem high because of the added labor, more expensive stationery, etc., but by using N.Y.A. typists the expense of labor is held to a minimum. The additional cost of bonded stationery is small compared with the results obtained from the personal touch.

N.Y.A. labor is available in all States and districts and their supervisors are anxious to place them in different offices and in different types of work in order to give them experience. There is no charge to the Project for this labor as it is all consumed by the National Youth Administration.

- Ralph V. Johnston, Kans.

FARMERS HOLD FALLACIES ABOUT FEATHERED FRIENDS

Some of the birds that save millions in crops each year are still misjudged by the farmer.

The Baltimore oriole has been accused of damaging grapes and garden peas. But Department of Agriculture studies show that the oriole's food habits are largely beneficial. Caterpillars are its favorite fare, but it also eats quantities of plant and bark lice, ants, wasps, grasshoppers, spiders, and weevils.

Farmers who tear swallows' nests from barn eaves are turning out their best friends. Swallows, catching their food on the wing, consume vast numbers of harmful flying insects especially during the nesting and molting periods when they, like most other birds, eat little besides animal foods. Young birds in the nest often eat more insects than their parents. To encourage swallows, provide mud for nest mortar, a shelf to support nests, and cut small entrance holes in barn gables. Barn and tree swallows will appreciate boxes placed high in the barn, while purple martins will make good use of houses on top of a pole in an open space.

Woodpeckers are often suspected of damaging trees by their drillings. Each hole drilled means that the bird has located the larva of a destructive wood-boring insect. Woodpeckers are among the most valuable forest conservationists. With their heavy bills they get insects that other birds cannot get.

Fruit raisers often look on robins as enemies because of the robin's appetite for cherries. Yet robins consume insects harmful to fruit crops throughout the year, and only during the flocking periods in June and July do they eat cultivated fruit to any extent. As soon as the wild berries are ripe they will form the greater part of the food. One good way to keep robins out of the orchard is to plant mulberry trees nearby. Mulberries ripen at the same time as cherries and the birds prefer them to other fruits.

- U.S.D.A. Clip Sheet

SHOULD WE PLANT 'EM ON THE CONTOUR?

This idea may be too much "off at a tangent," in which case just file it in the "Basket, wastepaper, metal," but I am mindful of the fact that often a long-range plan becomes inept when some one factor of the problem changes and renders the objective obsolete.

If you are not old enough to remember when the then newly invented automobile looked like a buggy with the shafts removed; when telegraphy was a promising career for young men, and kerosene lamps were standard office illumination, look back through the newspaper files of 40 years or so ago. What you will find there will be of value as an indication of how completely the accepted mode can change in that length of time.

The shelterbelts we are so proudly planting today will be just coming into their prime in that length of time, and good for 60 to 100 years. Will they then be useful where we are putting them? This question is vital, for once established, they can be destroyed but never moved.

Contour farming for conserving moisture and controlling water erosion is sound in principle, and though a radical departure from previous methods, is being adopted on an increasing scale. One of the practical difficulties of application lies in fitting the method to our rectangular system of land measurement and ownership.

Is it not conceivable that the next 30 or 50 years may witness extensive revision of land boundaries to permit better use of contour farming methods? Gradually at first, neighbors may buy and sell or swap the corners of their sections to bring lines of ownership to correspond with the contour lines, and finally the system of land conveyance be revised so that a man may buy or sell say, "150 acres of land lying between the 40th and 61st standard contours of Conservation District No. 247, State of Oklahoma."

If that day ever comes, won't those fellows cuss our section line shelterbelts, - or what is left of them after the grubbing crews are finished?

Probably the question is premature now, but in areas where contour farming is practiced on adjacent farms, wouldn't it be feasible to locate our shelterbelts on the contour lines and continuing through the several farms instead of perpetuating the section lines?

- Carl A. Taylor, Nebr.

COMMENTS ON CARL TAYLOR'S ARTICLE

I feel like the man at the point of a gun. If it's really loaded, we're in a helluva fix. If not, we'd regret giving up our pocketbook.

As yet I can't take the threat seriously for one reason -- section line roads. If the mosaic of farms becomes a crazy-quilt pattern of irregular pieces, the whole pattern of roads will have to wiggle in and out on the contour like the rest of the plan and, let us say, often go seven miles to make one. That would be a sweet job, abandoning our section line roads,

bridges, telephone lines, and all those things that are now tied in with the section pattern, and get new rights-of-way through the farmer's field to match the contour.

Viewing it from another angle, would we be accomplishing our purpose by placing shelterbelts along the contour if, by so doing, they were not properly oriented to stop the damaging winds? Our plan of following section and quarter-section lines as farm boundaries for our basic belts has been discussed with the Soil Conservation Service a number of times, and we have been in agreement that at this stage of the Project we are safest in placing those belts as they are now being planted, but that intermediate belts should fit the management plan of intervening fields, following contours or terraces where those practices are being applied.

- D. S. Olson, R.O.

4-H CLUBBERS GET STOCK FOR FUTURE PLANTING

On Thursday, April 14, 90 4-H Club members and their loaders assembled at the Ed Casey farm at the Mitchell District shelterbelt heel-in beds for obtaining young seedling trees for lining out this coming year.

Two hundred fifty thousand seedlings were distributed among the Club members. These included Chinese elm, American elm, green ash, and five different kinds of shrubs, including chokecherry, Russian olive, Tartarian maple, mulberry, and honeysuckle.

These were distributed by the Forest Service in cooperation with the Extension Department and the Agricultural Conservation office, under the supervision of E. J. Lund, District Shelterbelt Supervisor, and County Agent F. L. McMahon, who gave demonstrations on care of young seedling trees and methods of lining out and planting. Identification of various species was conducted by Mr. Lund on the different varieties of trees and shrubs given out.

The plants are too small to be planted this year and the members were given instructions on the proper method of "lining" out this stock for the present year so that next year they will be able to set them out in the field.

It was an inspiring sight to see these future shelterbelt cooperators carrying away from 2000 to 2500 trees, done up in burlap bags by their own hands.

- South Dakota

* * * * *

* God must have loved the sight of growing trees *
* Because he fashioned them with special care *
* And made them strong and beautiful for men, *
* Knowing the burden they would have to bear. *

* And down the centuries they stand serene *
* Clothing the earth with beauty and delight, *
* Lifting old arms to catch the sun and rain *
* Whispering across the silence and the night. *

- Edna Jaques (Clipped)

*
* Rocky Mountain Region Bulletin *
*

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DROWN THE DRONES

I guess I must have become "field-minded" during the planting season because when I came into the office the other day I found the office crew all working diligently, but things didn't seem just quite natural. Finally it came over me that the office force lacked a strawboss, field foreman, or some other titled official so familiar on the field crews, who is entitled to a line on the pay roll because he "supervises," walks up and down with an important look, but in many cases under observation does not do any productive work.

I remember on rainy days in Iowa I used to equip several hired men with hoes and advance on the morning glory patches. It was pretty well understood among us that each man was to keep his row hoed up even with mine because in the event that he did not do this his pay might stop. While in charge of a planting camp in Colorado, away back when the Forest Service was young, I discovered that my crew of 18 men equipped with mattocks in direct seeding of Engelmann spruce by the spot method, made better acreage when I took my position behind a mattock and set the pace for them.

In the Black Hills country where yellow pine is cut down instead of planted to make it grow, foremen in charge of CCC enrollee crews had difficulty in demonstrating proper methods of thinning unless he carried a man's size axe himself. Boys from the cow chip country learned to chop quicker from demonstrations than they did from scientific lectures.

Not long ago I observed a hoeing crew being duly "supervised" by a man who was diligently walking back and forth with his arms folded. One member of the crew was doing very excellent work while another was merely marking the row occasionally so that he could know that it had been hoed and he would not make the mistake of doing the job again in case he got off the row.

Some of our crews need "supervision" in the way of crew bosses, while in other cases I think "pace setters" would really get the job done better, and more of it per man day. Each planting crew needs a man following it to attend to the many little jobs associated with the crew. No crew needs a man with folded arms, but each requires a pace setter who is alive, who can see that the work is being done properly, that a proper speed is maintained, that each individual does his proper share, and that no "gold bricks" remain on the pay roll. In Kansas we now have plenty of hoes to furnish each man with one, so that no one needs to travel light while drawing pay on a hoe crew.

In making promotions, I believe it should be made a standard practice to advance the "pace setters" to better paid positions rather than the supervisors with the folded arms; and also men in charge of districts should be given nice little bouquets in their personnel folders semi-annually where "pace setters" supervise the crews on their districts.

- W. G. Baxter, Kans.

GOOD COOPERATION

The outlook for farmer cultivation is exceptionally encouraging in the Elk City District at this time. About ninety percent have machine cultivated their strips once and many have given their trees the second cultivation. About ten percent have already hand-hoed their trees and to date only one man, who has a half-mile planting, has given definite notice that he would be unable to cultivate.

The Forest Service has not done any cultivation to date and the outlook is that very little will be necessary. The assumption that we would have difficulty in getting the 1936 strips cared for is proving erroneous, as we are receiving just as good cooperation on them as on our 1938 plantings.

Some very good machine work is being done, while some is not so good, but there is every reason to be optimistic about the cooperation at this time.

Fencing work is now under way and it is hoped we can maintain employment ratios in this manner, as it looks as though we will not have enough cultivation to help out a great deal. However, it's a little early to determine definitely what will be done in the way of cultivation, particularly hand work.

- James W. Kyle, Okla.

"CHEF" JOHNSTON TO THE RESCUE!

Due to the last-minute retreat of the ladies' organizations of Kinsley, the Edwards County Farm Bureau was left without anyone to cook their monthly stag dinner. County Agent Borgeldt called on District Officer Johnston of the Forest Service for sympathy, and true to the best traditions of the Service, Johnston leaped into the breach. Donning a chef's uniform he sent out a call to his gang, and meat balls and spaghetti (Italian style), wilted lettuce, hard rolls, coffee, and bananas were prepared and served in record time.

The dinner was well attended and apparently a huge success; at least there were no casualties, and strange to say no complaints when the diners were told that the dishes were as yet unwashed.

Mr. Borgeldt, the County Agent, very much appreciated the help given by the Forest Service and took the opportunity to introduce the Cultivation Contact men to the Farm Bureau group. Johnston gave a short talk stressing the importance of clean cultivation to the survival and growth of the trees in the shelterbelt strips, and advanced the idea of the desirability of a single row of cover crop, preferably Sudan, planted early in the season between the rows of a strip located on a site which is likely to blow.

- Wayne C. Whitney, Kans.

(Two or three newspaper clippings mentioned the excellence of Ralph's cooking, so we accept this at its face value. We have had a lot of experience "eating after" Forest Officers - including ourself - and we are glad to learn that there is one who can cook. - Ed.)

THE OLD AND THE NEW

Fifty-five years ago near where the far-famed Chisholm Cattle Trail crossed the treacherous Red River from Texas into Oklahoma, a little grove of widespreading elms, cottonwoods, hackberries, China trees and walnuts huddled under the protection of a jagged rock cliff. A sparkling stream of silver wound foolishly out from the protecting shade of the grove and was quickly devoured by the ferocious thirst of the river blow sand.

It was a gorgeous May Day and all the rugged masculinity of the Plains frontier country was tempered with the charming femininity of spring. The bristling face of the cliff was wreathed in flowers. Miles of rolling sagebrush were cast in a sheen of blue-green haze of new growth, and even the ghostly bones of a steer, caught in a pitiless norther, became the perch of a warbler whose song was borne on a carefree prairie breeze across the far-reaching beds of bluebonnets.

Just across the first range of hills, in a crude little adobe shack lived a lone pioneer family. It had been a hard struggle through the long winter and the pioneer family was grateful for the promise of this spring morning. Like all people since time began the picnic urge was upon them - and just across the hill was the little grove beside the stream.

So the rugged pioneer and his wife packed their meager lunch and with their young ones rode off to the grove for the first of a long line of May-Day picnics on what is now known as Doan's Picnic Grounds. Just across the drifting white sand of the river bed Indian country began, but aside from the inbred caution which every early pioneer possessed, not a cloud of apprehension or fear marred the joy of their first May Day picnic. At last shadows encroaching on the sand sent the happy family back up the ravine and across the rolling plains to the little shack that was home.

Fifty-five turbulent years of progress, sandstorms, tornadoes, war and strife have turned the vast cattle country into a great farming center, but the little grove of trees still clings to the base of the protecting cliff.

Once each May it has been a gathering place for weather-beaten old trail drivers, pioneers and their descendants. In time the humble picnic of the first pioneer has developed into a gala event where thousands gather to crown a May queen and listen to the famed eloquence of Texas orators. Showmen have for many years pitched their tents in the grove and every year entertain the May Day picnickers with their curiosity shows, Ferris wheels, and all the "fixings" of the carnival. A modern road winds down the ravine to the spreading grove, that somehow still retains the charm and mystery of old.

Along this road to the old picnic site a new streamlined tree grove is growing. It is a mere baby in age compared to the old elms of the Doans. Nevertheless the young, vigorous trees are fast developing into protection for the abused, beaten land from the relentless sweep of the winds, as the Doan elms of old protected the pioneer and his little herd of cattle.

As you have guessed, the young trees are a thrifty Texas shelterbelt, which was inspected by an estimated five thousand visitors this last May Day.

Included among the visitors, who were mainly Texas and Oklahoma pioneers, were William McGraw, candidate for Governor of Texas; Ed Gossett, candidate for United States Congressman, and many other candidates and holders of Federal, State and local offices. A large sign donated by the Vernon Chamber of Commerce welcomed the pioneers and invited them to inspect the shelterbelt as part of their May Day activities.

Several applications for next year's plantings were received from visitors and many favorable comments were heard from them. Among the applications was one from Mrs. Bertha Doan Ross, daughter of the original pioneer, first white child born in Wilbarger County and the first queen of the quaint, historic Doan's May Day Picnic.

- Anonymous, but we'll bet a Mexican dollar that the author claims nativity of the Lone Star State. - Ed.

OUR ORATORS

I heard a Forest Officer talk last evening before a local Engineering Club and following are the things he did which impressed me:

1. He apparently went to that dinner with a definite idea to put over, not necessarily just to give another talk.
2. He knew his subject.
3. He was thoroughly at ease and put his audience at ease quickly and easily.
4. He talked as one of the group and not at the group.
5. Four humorous incidents were injected which related to the subject and served to keep interest at a high pitch.
6. He put over his ideas and ended his talk before anybody was tired or had lost interest.

More power to Forest Officers who can talk as interestingly and intelligently as he did.

- F. W. Woods (Reg. 4 "Daily News")

AIN'T IT WONNERFUL!

On March 25 while making up Form 26-a, I referred to the calendar and found that April the twenty-fourth would be Sunday. When Form 26-a was reviewed in the State Office, it was noted that no work would be done on April 24 because it would be Sunday. On April 24, I wrote in my diary, "Sunday." On April 30, in making up Form 26, I made an "X" on the twenty-fourth as it was Sunday, and turned the form over and made another "X" on the reverse side because the twenty-fourth was Sunday. Then I checked up on Form 26-a and found sure enough that no official work had been done on April 24 because it was Sunday.

Boy! It sure gives a fellow a good feeling when everything checks out thataway.

- W. G. Baxter, Kans.

CHINESE OR SIBERIAN ELM
(*Ulmus pumila* L.)

(This is the third of a series of articles by Mr. Engstrom on the principal tree species used by this Project.)

Considering our Project as a whole, the Chinese elm is undoubtedly the most discussed (or "cussed" as the case may be) and from the layman's viewpoint perhaps the most popular tree we are planting. From those familiar with it, it is nearly always possible to get widely divergent opinions as to its value, and therefore it is difficult to find an impartial analysis of the species.

As its name indicates, the Chinese elm is of foreign origin, being introduced into this country from China in 1908 by the United States Department of Agriculture. In its natural habitat in China it grows to a height of 60 to 70 feet, with trunk diameter of 2 to 3 feet. This maximum growth is attained in this country under the most favorable conditions in approximately 20 years.

The great popularity of the Chinese elm can be attributed to the following characteristics:

Its rate of growth is very rapid, surpassing all other species with which we are dealing with the exception of cottonwood. The tree leafs out early in the spring and the foliage remains very dense and green throughout the heat of the summer months late into the fall after other trees have dropped their leaves. Its appearance is therefore very attractive, and because of the density of its foliage and moderately wide branching it affords excellent shade.

The Chinese elm is adaptable through a wide range of soil types, including the alkaline, and withstands extremes of heat and drought exceptionally well. On difficult upland sites it exceeds all other species in rate of growth and ultimate height. Even though neglected and forced to compete with weeds and other adversities, it makes a fairly respectable showing.

As long as the Chinese elm remains in a thrifty condition and is not severely injured by high winds, freezing, or sleet storms, it seems to be quite free from insect pests and diseases. These afflictions are a common aftermath of mechanical injuries for most species, but the Chinese elm, especially when young and growing under favorable conditions, recovers very rapidly from physical damage. Therefore, to a large extent it manages to escape these attendant evils better than most species.

Reviewing the debit side of the Chinese elm ledger, the following faults must be noted:

It is probably more subject to injury from sleet storms than any other species with which we are dealing. This is not so much due to the weakness or brashness of the wood as to the fact that its limbs and twigs are much more numerous than on other species and there is considerably greater opportunity for heavy loads of sleet to accumulate. It

is also inclined to a "crotch" habit of growth, which greatly increases the possibility of injury from sleet or high winds since its crotches split quite readily. Since the species leafs out early and the leaves remain on the tree until late in the fall, greater opportunity is afforded for snow breaking from the unseasonably late spring or early fall snowstorms that frequently occur throughout the Plains region.

Severe freezes in the spring after the sap rises have been known to cause injury to the species by splitting the trunk or limbs open in a manner comparable to that of frozen water pipes. Such freezes occasionally kill the tree outright. Partial winter killing of branches and tops is quite common, especially in the northern States. Sun scald is also fairly prevalent on the Chinese elm.

Perhaps the Chinese elm's most aggravating feature is that during its first three or four years, before the bark becomes hard and corky, rabbits relish it above all other species. Numerous fine Chinese elm plantings have been severely mutilated by rabbits eating the bark and cropping back the small branches. Although such damage seldom kills the tree outright, since it sends out new shoots below the point of girdling, the usual result is a badly deformed bushy specimen. Furthermore, the loss in growth resulting from such damage delays the establishment of the plantings, thereby prolonging the period when the trees may be overcome by weed competition and other hazards.

Considering the characteristics of this species as they tie in with shelterbelt planting, it appears obvious that it ranks very high for this purpose, especially in the central and southern Plains. The Chinese elm is at its best when grown in groups, either by itself or in association with other species, since it needs the mutual protection thus afforded to aid it in overcoming or combating its own weaknesses. Single specimens of Chinese elm growing as shade or street trees are much more likely to come to grief than those growing in close association with other trees, so it is well to consider the possibility of using other species than Chinese elm for such purposes.

The longevity or permanence of the Chinese elm under Plains conditions is still a subject of debate. Since the species has been in this country only 30 years, not enough time has elapsed since its introduction to permit drawing definite conclusions. Indications, however, point to the conclusion that Chinese elm is a comparatively short-lived tree, since the older specimens that may be observed are quite often in a state of deterioration. Therefore, it does not appear to be a tree that can be counted on for permanence or for future generations.

It is interesting to note that the Chinese elm is an extremely variable species. Several distinct forms have been observed, leading to the thought that the species may hold forth promise of improvement through selection. Some foresters and nurserymen contend, not without considerable proof, that the species will cross with the American elm and that the resulting progeny has the so-called hybrid vigor. Others dispute this claim, however, believing that the so-called hybrid is merely another form of the Chinese elm. Regardless of the final outcome of this dispute, it seems

apparent that the species needs further study in order that the more promising forms may be selected for propagating purposes.

Commercial nurserymen have found the Chinese elm to be a profitable species, since it is easily propagated and its popularity has opened up a ready market at good prices and many millions of this species have been sold since its introduction into this country. However, the general public is now becoming better acquainted with the qualities of this tree, and it is expected that future sales will be made more on its merits rather than on propaganda as has largely been the case in the past.

There is little information available as to just what uses may be made of the wood of the Chinese elm. In China it is reported that it is being used for general lumber purposes. In this country it seems likely that its immediate use will be limited to fuel and fence posts. Its wood, when seasoned, is hard and tough, and therefore it should serve other useful purposes around the farm.

- Harold E. Engstrom, R.O.

SHELTERBELTS IN THE HOLY LAND

The advantages of windbreaks for citrus orchards in Palestine are discussed. The loss caused by westerly winds in the Spring of 1937 amounted to 400,000 boxes of dropped fruit while the value of the growing crop was diminished by the increase in second grade fruit arising from wind damage. In 1935 the hot easterly winds reduced the citrus crop by 2 million boxes. The north-easterly winds in 1937 reduced the crop by 500,000 boxes. Temporary windbreaks are necessary while the permanent ones are growing. Ricinus (castor oil) is less used now owing to its susceptibility to pests and diseases. Crotalaria juncea (sunn hemp) and Sesbania aegyptiaca are good substitutes. The former grows 6 feet and the latter about 9 feet in a few months. Neither is very resistant to cold. Permanent windbreaks suggested are Cupressus pyramidalis, C. horizontalis, C. macrocarpa, C. arizonica, Casuarina, Grevillea, Eucalyptus and Tamarisk. These trees will attain 25-30 feet in 7 or 8 years. The densest windbreaks should be planted on the northern side. With all windbreaks an outlet for air currents should be left at the lower end of the plot to avoid the establishment of frost pockets. Planting distances are given for the various trees suggested. All varieties should be topped every two years to encourage spreading. The trees should be liberally manured and irrigated and a trench opened 5 feet deep and 5 feet from the trunks every year. These measures will keep the roots from robbing the neighboring fruit trees. Investigations recently carried out by the Department of Agriculture showed that 4% less fruit fell during wind on a fully protected than on an unprotected plot and that the percentage of first grade fruit was higher in the protected plot. A lightly protected plot gave intermediate results.

- Abstracted by Ernest Wright, R.O.,
from Horticultural Abstracts, Vol. 8,
1938.

RECALLS DAYS WHEN WOOD WAS SCARCER

It doesn't hurt to cry a little, if you are mad enough to cry, and if you do something about it, too, in the opinion of E. E. Frazier of Coldwater, who recalls such an incident in the early settling of Comanche County.

It was 49 years ago that a boy of fifteen, down in the Cherokee strip, was sent by his parents with a wagon up into Comanche County to get a load of

fire wood, Mr. Frazier recalls. He loaded up in a pasture and was just ready to go home when the manager of the pasture came along and made the boy unload.

The boy bawled, as he unloaded the wagon. He sobbed out a story of how poor his family was, as he worked. He stooped over to pick up his blanket on the ground and came up with a rifle.

Still crying and sobbing, he trained the rifle on the ranchman, and sobbed, "Damn you--boo-hoo--get down offen that plug--boo-hoo--and load that wood back on the wagon--boo-hoo. You'd just like to see me drive home--boo-hoo--and dad would lick the devil outa me--boo-hoo, and ma would give me worse--boo-hoo."

The ranchman reloaded the wood.

- Hutchinson Herald (Kansas)

: NEBRASKA :

Planting was completed in three of our four districts May 7. The fourth district will finish by May 14 to complete slightly more than 900 miles of new planting. Soil moisture conditions have been almost ideal since the beginning of the planting season. In fact rain has limited actual planting operations to an average of four planting days per week.

A cultivation meeting was held at Broken Bow with Shelterbelt Assistants and their first assistants May 6 and 7. Definite policies, particularly with relation to 1935 and 1936 strips, were decided upon. Field men are unanimous in their opinion that 1937 and 1938 cooperators will perform all machine cultivation, but it is anticipated that the Forest Service will have to cultivate some of the 1936 strips to insure sufficient growth this year to get them "up out of the weeds."

Wedding bells are threatening to ring for two members of the Pierce District field force early this summer. "Red" Hougland has set July 12 as the tentative date, and Howard Lawton's plans call for a later summer wedding in Omaha.

Nebraska is planning another picnic, but this time it will include a tour of shelterbelt plantings in the Neligh District. To members of the organization who do not have occasion to make field trips, this picnic trip offers an opportunity to actually observe what is being accomplished in the field. Early indications are that the State and Regional organizations will be well represented.

: KANSAS :

The V. C. Rosenwald family has arrived from Fargo, North Dakota, and is located at 1424 Houston Street.

Victor O. Goodwin, who assisted with the Range program in Kansas last year, has accepted the position of State Range Examiner for the State of Kansas, and is stationed in Manhattan. "Vic" attended a conference of AAA officials at Ogden, Utah during the week of April 10 to 16. He states that the meeting was in charge of F. Lee Kirby, formerly of our Regional Office, who is now Technical Supervisor of the Range Conservation Program of the Western Region.

: REGIONAL OFFICE :

On Sunday, May 28, the Nebraska Office entertained some of the Regional Office personnel, consisting mainly of stenographers chaperoned - more or less - by the Ed. himself, at a picnic at Neligh, Nebraska. The purpose was to give the non-field-going personnel a peephole view of what the Project is all about, and to see some of the results of our paper work. So we went, we saw - and were conquered! A number of shelterbelts in the vicinity of Orchard were visited, and while I suppose it is no longer such a thrill to those of you who frequently visit strips up and down the zone, to us who had not in nearly four years on the Project seen a single shelterbelt, it was an inspiring and wholly satisfactory view. Adjectives evade us in our attempt to describe our broadened appreciation of the work. Let those who know tell about the tangible merits of the shelterbelts, but we at least know they are beautiful to look upon. And now when we write "a thousand miles," "a hundred thousand acres," "forty million trees in shelterbelts," we have some idea of what we are writing about.

We've sort of digressed from the subject of this item - the picnic. That also was inspiring and satisfactory - so inspiring, in fact, that we felt called upon to make several repeat trips to the steak broiler, and so satisfactory that we can still savor the deliciousness of the steaks.

The group who week-ended at Neligh had an especially enjoyable time, taking in all that the town offered, including a dance, and if you think Benny Goodman has something, you haven't heard the Kucera Brothers Accordion Orchestra swing a waltz in schottische time. I hope that we did not leave the impression with the natives that all the Forest Service is completely wacky, but what can you do with a chaperon who refuses to go home before two a.m.?

(Tut, tut, Lucille! Would you have had us break the hearts of all the local belles? - Ed.)

The Shelterbelt may go, and the Prairie States Forestry Project may come, but boys, it seems, will be born forever. Since the beginning of the Project, our roster of the very young in the Regional Office has included only those of the male persuasion. Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Engstrom are happy that they have not broken faith with the long-standing tradition, and point with justifiable pride to young Bruce Allen Engstrom, born on May 9, 1938.

Miss Ena Lind of the Nebraska Office underwent an operation for appendicitis at the St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln, on May 23, and is now doing well. Miss Lind accompanied the group who picnicked at Neligh on Sunday, and later the same day she went to the hospital. Her interest must have been little short of marvelous under the circumstances, for though very ill she would not give up until she had seen what she had come to see. We all think she is a right good sport, and wish her a speedy recovery.

- Lucille E. Clark, R.O.